

Weekly Column for January 13, 2005

This weekend we celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Monday we will take a day of remembrance for the man who changed our country forever.

Sometimes it does us well to pause and think about exactly who a human being was or is. Dr. King *is* a hero to many people, but decades down the road, his legendary heroic attributes will transform him into a folk-like champion of human rights. How fitting a tribute that will be to a man who dared to change the face of our country.

Last year I gave a speech in front of the Troy Area United Ministries and discussed Dr. King's ability to inspire, and hoped that during my first year in office, I could inspire people, albeit on a much smaller level. I hoped to bring people together in the city to work together for the betterment of Troy. I believe that the ball is most definitely rolling on that challenge.

It is difficult to talk about Dr. King in words. He is a man that is known for one of the singular greatest speeches in our storied history. He was a man of dreams. He was a man of vision. The ability to fight for what you know is right is never an easy one. You sometimes take stands that are more than unpopular. But if you know in your heart that your actions are right, then you end up fearing nothing. In so many ways we strive to be that kind of person throughout our lives. However, Dr. King is one of the few who accomplished it with so much success, so much love, and so much pride.

So it sounds silly to even compare something we do locally to Dr. King, but whom else would we rather emulate. Many people have the day off from work, or school on Monday in celebration of Dr. King. It is my hope that this year, as we embark on new adventures in the City, we take the lessons he taught us and put them to good use.

Work together. Do what is right. And most of all- dream.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy